Wood

Annual Report

Westhampton Massachusetts

2002

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

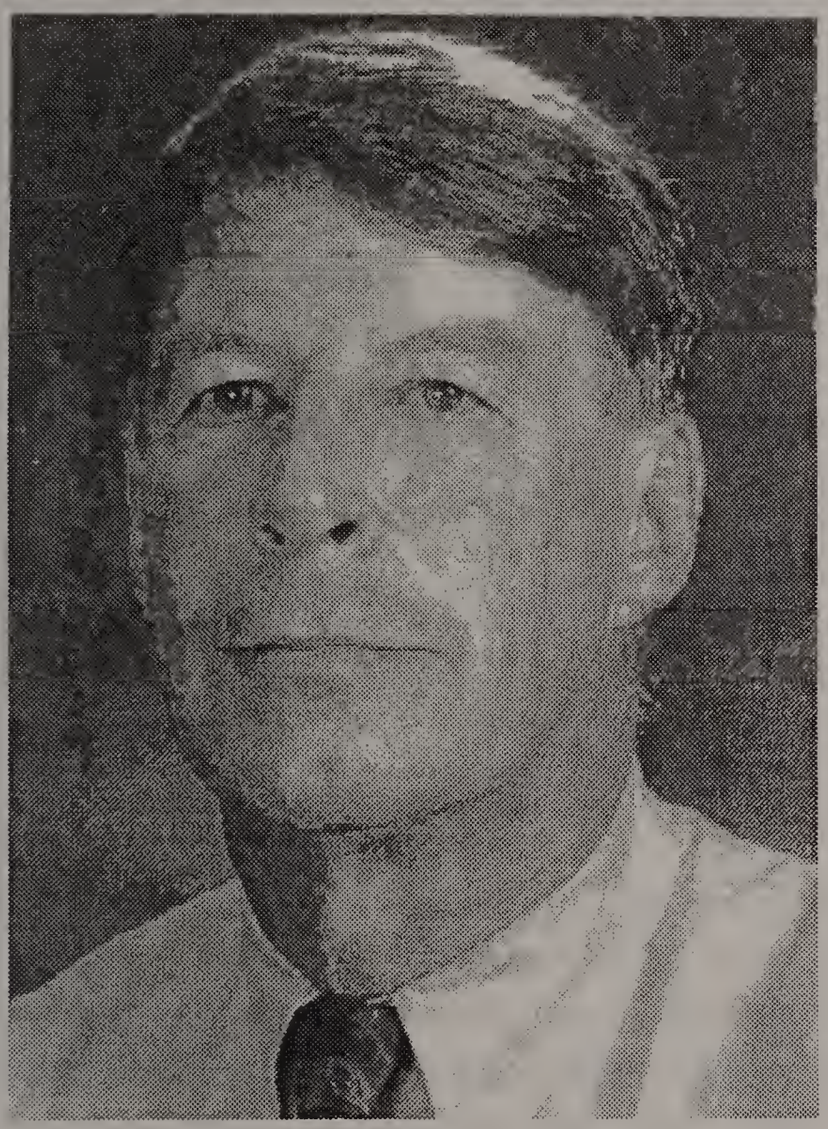
TOWN OFFICERS

TOWN
OF
WESTHAMPTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2002

DEDICATION



DONALD MACLEOD

This town report is dedicated to Donald MacLeod, who retired at the end of the 2002 school year after thirty-three years as Principal in Westhampton. Don began his career in 1968 as a teaching principal at the Davenport School in Chesterfield. The next year, in addition, he assumed responsibility for both the Westhampton and Goshen Center Schools, logging many miles on the roads between the towns. Since 1990, he has worked solely in Westhampton, watching over the students and new facility with enthusiasm and dedication. Working in a small school allowed Don to get to know each student and parent, becoming an important part of our community. He faithfully attended Annual Town Meeting to support the school's budget request. Over the years, he has seen children (and even grandchildren!) of former students go through the school. Many will hope to see him at the Center School Reunion during our 225th anniversary celebration in August 2003.

We thank Don for his many years of service to the Town and wish him a happy retirement, with more time for his family, travel and golf!

REPORT OF THE SELECTBOARD

As of January 2002, the Selectboard consisted of Roy Van Driesche, Chair; Jim Huston, Clerk, and Lydia Omasta. In June, Charles P. (Karl) Norris was elected to the Board. We thank Roy for his contributions to the Town during his two terms on the Board. The Board reorganized with Jim Huston as Chair, Karl Norris as Clerk, and Lydia Omasta as the third member.

The Selectboard meets alternate Mondays at 7:00P.M. at the Town Hall.

The Selectboard had a very busy year with a number of issues ongoing throughout the year.

Capital Projects

Town meeting authorized borrowing $60,000 for repairs to the Town Hall. Highway Superintendent Blakesley took over management of this project, drawing up bid documents for painting, repair work, and roof repair, and overseeing the work. Special thanks go to David, to Bob Miller for acquiring new lettering, and Phil Dowling, the painting contractor, who went well beyond the contract to assure a quality paint job. We can all be proud that our Town Hall looks great for the 225th celebration coming up in 2003. Thanks also to Roy Van Driesche for making the push to get this project underway.

The Town Hall continues to be used frequently for meetings, dances, birthday parties, and martial arts classes. With the High School under construction, the space was also used for drama rehearsals and productions, and an after school program. We thank the 4-H clubs for their donations of tables and Custodian John Karakula for keeping the building clean, the snow shoveled, and maintenance under control.

The Community Facilities Committee, appointed in 2001, brought a request for funds for a feasibility study of capital needs to a special town meeting in January. An architect was hired and a $3,000,000

proposal was made to a Special Town Meeting in July. Though successful there, the subsequent 2 ½ debt exclusion failed. The Committee regrouped and resubmitted a reduced project for a new highway building and fire truck that was approved in December and subsequently validated at a Special Election in 2003. We want to thank the Committee which consisted of Arthur Pichette, Chair, David Blakesley, Ben Coggins, Michael Diggins, Steve Holt, Dorothy Miller, Margaret Parsons, Barbara Pelissier, Bill Tracy, and John Zimmerman, for their time and dedication to provide for the town's capital needs for many years to come.

South Road

David Blakesley, Highway Superintendent, stubbornly pursued funding for the South Road project that has been in the works for many years. He enlisted the Selectboard and our legislators in pressuring Mass Highway for approval of the design so it can go out to bid. We have some hope that his hard work will pay off with the project going out to bid before fall 2003. We thank David and his crew, Peter Montague, Foreman, Jerry Ostrowski and Mike Robbins as they continue taking great care of our roads, despite cuts in state aid for highway improvements.

Open Space Plan

The Open Space Committee, with Dr. Thomas Cleary, as Chair, worked diligently throughout the year to finish the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which has been approved by the State. We thank the Committee for their dedication in preparing this Plan, thus qualifying Westhampton for State funding, as well as providing direction as our town grows.

Senior Housing

Lydia Omasta has continued to serve on the Senior Housing Committee, which made great strides in 2002. The Selectboard hosted two public hearings to keep residents informed on the progress being made. Led by Don Bianchi, staff member from the Hilltown Community Development Corporation, with funds from a State grant, the Committee hired a consultant to do a marketing study

that demonstrated a need and interest for senior housing. Another consultant was hired to study funding and site issues. By the end of 2002, the Committee had a piece of land under option and will begin applying for funding through various governmental programs.

Fire Department

The Fire Department, led by Chief John Shaw, has worked to supplement town funds by applying for grants. Although unsuccessful in their bid for federal funds for a new fire truck, they have had success with smaller grants, including $15,000 received in December, for much needed equipment. Westhampton has one of the few fully volunteer departments in the state and we thank the firefighters for their continued dedication. We also thank John for his willingness to cooperate with all the demands put on him and the department during the ongoing construction at the High School.

Flags

A proposal by Eagle Scout candidate Jeffrey Douchkoff to put up 45 flags on poles in the center of town proved to be controversial. After several meetings where feelings ran high, a compromise was reached. The flags will be flown each year from mid May until just after July 4th, and again from just prior to Labor Day until the week after Veterans Day. The flags will be put up and maintained by the Fire Department, using donations turned over to the Department by Jeffrey.

Earth Removal Bylaws

Feelings ran high again concerning earth removal regulation in Westhampton. Abutters to a proposed new gravel bank lobbied the Selectboard to withhold releasing the town's right to purchase the land that was being removed from Chapter 61. After giving the abutters an opportunity to search for funding to purchase the land, and consulting with other town boards, the land was released.

Subsequently, the Zoning Board of Appeals notified the Selectboard that the Zoning Bylaw, which was adopted in May 1995, does not

permit earth removal operations. They contended that any earth removal operations begun after that date are illegal and asked that the Selectboard submit a bylaw revision to the Planning Board to permit sand and gravel mining. A group of landowners developed a bylaw that was presented to the Selectboard and passed on to the Planning Board. Following the Planning Board hearing on the proposed bylaw, an informal committee of landowners and others wanting stricter regulation was formed to negotiate a bylaw to be presented to Town Meeting. Negotiations were ongoing at the end of 2002.

Windy Acres Campground

Numerous complaints were received throughout the summer regarding the campground, which was purchased by John and Sally Kelsey in 2002. It has been a difficult issue to resolve because the campground is in such close proximity to nearby residents' homes. Town Boards are working with the Kelsey's to lessen the impact of the campground on the surrounding residential area. The Kelsey's have indicated their willingness to cooperate, and hopefully next summer will be more peaceful for all concerned.

Town Boards and Committees

Matthew Montague was appointed to the Conservation Commission, Elizabeth Anderson to the Council on Aging, Floyd Fisher as a Police Officer, Chris Norris as Emergency Management Director, Lydia Omasta as representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, and Leo Aloisi to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Clerk of the Selectboard was designated as the ADA coordinator. Lyn Keating resigned from the Cable TV Committee and Andrew Watson from the Planning Board.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our administrative assistant, Margaret Parsons, for her hard work and dedication to ensure that town government operates smoothly. Her willingness to lend a helping hand to any town board or department is greatly appreciated. Additionally, we would like to thank all town officers, boards and committees, past and present, for the part each plays in governing our town. We have no "non-essential" personnel!

Respectfully submitted,

James Huston, Chairman
Lydia C. Omasta
Karl Norris

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) underwent a stress-filled year as several cities and towns decided not to renew their membership in the Council. (The mostly larger towns voting to withdraw feel their assessments are too high for the number of services they use. They also feel like they are subsidizing services that mainly benefit smaller towns). This places great restraints on the FY04 operating budget and some programs in place may have to be reduced or eliminated.

The Council is looking for innovative ways to maintain current services. In an effort to make the HCOG more viable, and in the hopes of keeping those towns that have voted out, a reduction in membership assessments has been made with no member town paying more than $40,000 in fees. Towns with smaller assessments will receive a 10% reduction. Westhampton's share for FY04 is $8111 down from $9769 in FY03 and $10013 in FY02. It is hoped that the Electrical Aggregation Cooperative will be operational and able to offset assessments for cities and towns in the very near future.

On a brighter note, operational funds were provided to open the County Lock-up Facility located at the Hampshire County Jail on Route 66. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in November at which time the Lock-up began taking prisoners much to the relief of all Hampshire County Police Chiefs and Officers. In the past, when an arrest was made, an officer was required to watch over that individual, provided space could be found to house the person in custody. This would result in taking an officer off the street and leaving small towns without any police coverage once an arrest was made. An alternative to this procedure was not to make the arrest at

all since it was so time consuming. Now, an arrest can be made and the individual sent to the Lock-up facility until arraignment. The Human Services Committee of the HCOG has been working diligently to get ideas/designs for the Park at Hampshire Care. Several schools as well as housing authorities have expressed great interest and have submitted proposals for buildings on the campus. Hospice Care is moving forward to accept proposals for an 8-12 bed unit to be located adjacent to Hampshire Care where medical and nursing services can be coordinated and/or shared. A $450,000 State grant had previously been awarded. This will be the only Hospice Facility west of Worcester.

The HCOG is getting closer to signing contracts that will allow the HCOG to provide electrical power at reduced rates to member cities and towns for municipals and businesses and eventually to residents.

Another very popular program is the Tobacco Free Network Program, under the auspices of the HCOG, which has worked to eliminate the health consequences associated with tobacco use in Hampshire County through education, prevention, assistance with quitting smoking, and the elimination of second hand smoke. The Tobacco Free Network provides materials to help individuals quit on their own, tobacco education materials, and support to local communities to promote smoke-free worksites. The Tobacco Network lobbied hard and was one of a very few Programs/Boards of Health across the State able to maintain grant funding despite massive cuts by the State to the program. An effort is now underway by the Program, while funding is still available, to enact *Clean Air Works*. The idea is for Boards of Health and communities to collaborate with partners who support efforts for worksites to go 100% smoke-free. This project is also an effort to unify tobacco regulations so that all cities and towns have similar regulations.

Some of the other programs and services offered by the Council include Cooperative Purchasing (Westhampton saved $13,935 in 2001 on goods and services purchased by the Town, Highway Department and the Elementary School. Major savings were also realized by Hampshire Regional,) Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust, Regional Services, Surplus Property, Hampshire Council Inspection Program (though we do not use this service as we have our own Building Inspector, the services were made available to us this year when our own Building Inspector was ill), Local Emergency Planning Committee, and the Hampshire Care Nursing

facility in Leeds.

The HCOG serves as the mechanism to provide needed services at reduced fees by regional cooperation and participation. It also serves as a focal point for the assessment of Regional needs and planning of services and coordination of ideas, cooperation and resources between communities of Hampshire County. Now, more than ever, given the massive State budget cuts, regionalization should be paramount in our minds, especially here in Western MA where there is a tendency to be forgotten by Boston. We need government at a local level and the Hampshire Council of Governments provides this service. Quite honestly, Boston would love to see us fail.

I am proud to serve as the Councilor representing Westhampton. This year I have had the privilege to Chair the HCOG, as well as serve on the Executive, Finance, Regional Services and Human Services Committees. It has been an exciting year and it has been my pleasure to serve with other dedicated men and women representing the twenty towns and cities of Hampshire County. The meetings are lively, thought provoking, informative and represent the best of people thinking in a cooperative and regional manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

In 2002 the Board of Assessors issued 95 abatements and exemptions: 27 Real Estate and Personal Property and 68 Motor Vehicle; visited 93 properties undergoing construction or remodeling; recorded 82 property transfers; and approved the placing of 5 additional parcels under the protection of Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B.

Westhampton's assessed value for FY2002 is $132,364,694: Real Estate - $111,362,500; Personal Property - $2,702,794; and Exempt - $18,299,400.

The Tax Rate was set in December of 2002 at $18.30 per $1000.00 of evaluation.

The Board of Assessors meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Assessor's Office at the Town Hall. Please feel free to come up or call us at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Miller,Chair
Paul Nevins
Dolores Thornhill

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 2002 as follows:

BIRTHS 14

DEATHS 4

January 1, 2002	Marilyn K. Cervelli
January 8, 2002	Jean B. Thouin
March 24, 2002	Alice Amass
April 21, 2002	Shirley C. McCauley

MARRIAGES 4

May 18, 2002	Pamela Sue Challet to Gerald A. Creek
September 7, 2003	Lorri Mae Pratt to Shane A. McClaflin
October 12, 2002	Charlene Marie Wood to Joseph Santo Bordonaro
November 23, 2002	Rhonda Goodspeed to Jeffrey Aaron Brooks

DOG LICENSES FOR 2002:

9 Males	@ $8.00		72.00
45 Neutered Males	@ 4.00		180.00
2 Females	@ 8.00		16.00
52 Spayed Females	@ 4.00		208.00
6 Kennels<4	@ 15.00		90.00
0 Kennels<10	@ 25.00		00.00
3 Kennels>10	@ 50.00		150.00
117 Total Fees Collected		$	716.00

TOWN FEES from Dog Licenses 108 @ $.75 $81.00

TOWN FEES from Kennel Licenses 9 @ $.75 6.75

TOTAL TOWN FEES $87.75

HUNTING/FISHING/LICENSES/STAMPS

24	Stamps	$	120.50
14	Fishing Licenses		289.00
4	Hunting/Sporting Licenses		140.00
1	Hunting licenses		22.50
4	Hunting/Sporting >70 yrs.		0
2	Fishing License > 70 yrs.		0
49	Total Licenses/stamps sold	$	572.00
	Town Fees Collected	$	10.00

TOWN CLERK FEES COLLECTED	$394.72
TOWN FEES COLLECTED	$807.62
DOG FINES/PENALTIES	$100.00

REQUESTS FOR VARIANCE/SPECIAL PERMIT	= 9
BUSINESS CERTIFICATES ISSUED	= 3
PARKING TICKETS	= 17
HOUSE NUMBERS ISSUED FOR 2002	= 16

POPULATION (2001 CENSUS)	1638
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS	1089
DEMOCRATS	177
REPUBLICANS	117
LIBERTARIANS	5
GREEN PARTY	5
OTHER POLITICAL DESIGNATIONS	3
UNENROLLED	782

A Special State Primary and Special State Election were held to elect a Representative to the First Hampshire District to fill the vacancy left by William P. Nagle. Peter V. Kocot won both the Special Election in April 2002 for this seat as well as the State Election held November 5, 2002. A Special Town Election was held on September 9, 2002 to allow an override to Proposition 2 21/2 in the amount of $3,100,000 to provide for a fire truck, purchase of the Parsonage; the design, construction and equipping of a new highway garage, and design, construction and equipping a police and fire station for the town by converting the existing highway garage for such purpose. 523 of 1074 registered voters voted 185 YES 337- NO 1 – Blank

A reminder that census forms are mailed yearly to all residents of Westhampton. These are very important and it is every resident/tenant's responsibility to complete and return the form to the Town Clerk. Currently it is a State law that all persons be included in the resident list of their city or town and the State imposes the penalty of removal from the voters list of anyone failing to complete and return the census.

Dog licenses are available in March for the current year. All dogs, six months and older, must be licensed by June 30, 2003. A current rabies certificate is required. Any dog not licensed after June 30, 2003 is subject to fines and penalties.

The TOWN CLERK holds office hours on most MONDAY evenings

from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. Services provided include copies of birth, death and marriage certificates, issuing marriage licenses, hunting and fishing licenses, dog licenses, voter registration, special permit/variance applications and the issuance of house numbers for new construction. Notary service is also available. The current month's calendar indicating meeting dates and times for Town Boards is posted on the Town Clerk's door as well as the bulletin board outside of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Stefansson, Clerk

I have audited the Town Clerk's records and find this report to be thorough and correct.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

AS OF JUNE 30, 2002

FY02 Real Estate		
Committed	1952742.06	
Collected	-1875559.84	
Abatements/Exemptions	-12173.36	
Refunds	5406.20	
Due 6/30/2002		70415.06
FY01 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	72213.99	
Collected	-51644.11	
Refunds	2126.80	
Due 6/30/2002		22696.68

FY00 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	22603.89	
Collected	-8339.54	
Abated	-584.60	
Refunds	584.60	
Due 6/30/2002		14264.35
FY99 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	10615.78	
Collected	-5786.34	
Bounced check	552.92	
Due 6/30/2002		5382.36
FY98 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	13893.23	
Collected	-490.94	
Due 6/30/2002		13402.29
FY97 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	3709.16	
Due 6/30/2002		3709.16
FY96 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	0	
Abated	-2435.40	
Refund	2435.40	
Due 6/30/2002		0
FY95 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	856.01	
Collected	4.41	
Due 6/30/2002		851.60
FY94 Real Estate		
Balance as of 6/30/01	4100.38	
Due 6/30/2002		4100.38

PRIOR YEARS		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		86.45
FY02 Personal Property		
Committed	42996.02	
Collected	-40680.61	
Abated	-73.18	
Refunded	43.65	
Due 6/30/2002		2285.88
FY01 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/2001	2749.41	
Collected	-275.15	
Due 6/30/2002		2474.26
FY00 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/2001	2645.80	
Collected	-815.59	
Due 6/30/2002		1830.21
FY99 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/2001	2325.95	
Collected	-1926.40	
Due 6/30/2002		399.55
FY98 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/2001	1396.23	
Collected	-932.96	
Due 6/30/2002		463.27
FY97 Personal Property		
Due 7/1/2001	581.00	
Collected	581.00	
Due 6/30/2002		0
FY96 Personal Property		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		555.54

FY95 Personal Property		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		324.36
FY94Personal Property		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		113.80
FY93 Personal Property		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		100.80
FY92 Personal Property		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		232.96
FY91 Personal Property		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		143.52
FY90 Personal Property		
Balance as of 6/30/2002		99.15
2002 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Committed	135790.91	
Collected	-128373.93	
Abated	-2813.55	
Refunds	1195.78	
Due 6/30/2002		5799.21
2001 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/2001	8175.54	
Committed	18686.84	
Collected	-24349.43	
Abated	-1281.98	
Refunds	1129.00	
Bounced Check	27.50	
Due 6/30/2002		2387.47
2000 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/2001	482.60	
Committed	694.58	

Collected	-763.54	
Abated	-279.47	
Refunds	279.47	
Due 6/30/2002		413.64
1999 Motor Vehicle Excise		
Due 7/1/2001	213.56	
Collected	-31.88	
Due 6/30/2002		181.68
PRIOR YEARS		
Balance as of 6/30/01	4852.48	
Balance as of 6/30/02		4852.48

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Blakesley, Tax Collector

I have reviewed the report of the Tax Collector, have checked the figures with the Assessors' commitment sheets and abatement approvals, have compared all receipts with the turn-over sheets to the Treasurer, and have met with Laura after completing my audit. To the best of my knowledge, this report is correct as submitted.

Charlotte R. Wood
Auditor

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

GENERAL FUND

Balance July 1, 2001	$456579.67
Receipts	3856885.93
Disbursements	-3777706.90
Balance June 30, 2002	$535758.70

Bank Western Massachusetts Checking	2702.35
Bank Western Massachusetts Money Market	145470.84
Easthampton Savings Bank Collector	46213.07
Easthampton Savings Sweep	68309.97
Easthampton Savings Deputy Collector	12341.65
Fleet Capital	34340.18
Fleet Money Market	67385.03
MMDT General	35519.69
MMDTCultural Council	3868.87
MMDT Septic Grant	6887.55
Bank Western Massachusetts Septic	1201.38
Unibank	111518.12
Balance June 30, 2002	535758.70

TRUST FUNDS -MMDT

Charity	$3415.56
Cemetery	3737.44
Veterans	1528.69
Stabilization Fund	
Balance July 1, 2001	47904.52
Receipts	1218.32
Disbursements	0
Balance June 30, 2002	49122.84
Total Trust	$57804.53

TOTAL ALL FUNDS	$593,563.23

Interest earned - $20435.59

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE TOWN ACCOUNTING OFFICER

JULY 1, 2001- JUNE 30, 2002

Cash on Hand July 1, 2001		
General	**456579.67**	
Stabilization	**47904.52**	
Trust Funds	**8756.41**	**513240.60**
	RECEIPTS	
TAXES		
Property	1986545.39	
Forest Products Tax	2047.13	
Farm Animal Excise	1508.71	
In Lieu of Taxes	9800.04	
Motor Vehicle Excise	153491.28	
		2153392.55
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS		
Local Aid/Lottery	139763.00	
Highway Fund	9166.00	
Elections	252.00	
Chapter 70 Schools	348019.00	
Chapter 71 Transportation	13422.00	
Charter School	4447.00	
SBAB Reimbursement	277312.00	
Loss of Taxes	3276.00	
		795657.00
GRANTS AND GIFTS		
Brush Mower Gift	17802.11	
Dog Refund	561.31	
COA – Federal	742.00	
COA – State	2600.00	
Cultural Council	3300.00	
Cultural Council Gifts	135.00	
DHCD Senior Housing	16950.00	

DEM Forest Fire Grant	925.49	
Library Aid	2562.10	
MARCS Library Grant	1100.00	
		46678.01
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Licenses	314.00	
Plumbing Fees	6595.00	
Electrical Fees	8220.00	
Sanitation Fees	445.00	
Building Permits	20108.80	
Assessors	53.50	
Planning Board	480.00	
Board of Appeals	602.00	
Conservation Commission	546.25	
Mark & Clear	140.00	
Town Clerk Fees	574.27	
Miscellaneous	4025.88	
		42104.70
POLICE DEPARTMENT		
Motor Vehicle Fines	7037.50	
Parking Tickets	210.00	
Permits	557.50	
Reports	70.00	
Revolving Fund	47703.28	
Revolving Fd Admin Fee	734.80	
		56313.08
FIRE DEPARTMENT		
Permits	1665.00	1665.00
BOARD OF HEALTH		
Septic Design	1225.00	
Licenses & Permits	1025.00	
Perc Tests	3200.00	
Title V	725.00	
Landfill Fees	37123.30	43298.30

REVOLVING FUNDS		
Dog Licenses	646.50	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	705.75	
Septic Repayment	7065.05	
Tax Collector Fees	4850.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	819.00	
		14086.30
SCHOOLS		
Preschool Revolving	86053.40	
Kindergarten Enhancement	14500.00	
School Technology Grant	3375.00	
Health Protection	3862.00	
School Building Use	2250.00	
School Lunch State	530.65	
School Lunch Federal	5210.05	
School Lunch Sales	11670.62	
		127451.72
HIGHWAY		
Transportation Bond Issue	139528.35	139528.35
INTEREST		
On General Fund	20435.59	
On Taxes	9223.34	
On Charity Funds	85.89	
On Cemetery Funds	93.98	
On Veterans Trust	39.47	
On Stabilization	1218.32	
On Septic Grant	328.53	
On Cultural Council	58.90	
		31484.02
AGENCY		
Meals Tax	29.23	
Gun Permits	582.50	
Payroll Deductions	345155.36	
		345767.09

Refunds	717.60	717.60
LOANS Town Hall	60000.00	60000.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		3858143.72

PAYMENTS

NON-APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES

TAX REFUNDS

Property Tax	10596.67	
Motor Vehicle Excise	2604.25	13200.92
AGENCY		
Payroll Deductions	346746.74	
Meals Tax	32.27	346779.01
SCHOOL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Academic Support	1999.35	
Charter School	3077.00	
Choice	11972.00	
Community Coalition	91.50	
Health Protection Grant	3862.00	
Kindergarten Grant	14121.50	
Preschool	72035.03	
School Lunch	18086.27	
Technology Grant	3333.94	128578.59
SPECIAL REVOLVING FUNDS & GRANTS		
Brush Mower	17631.54	
Cultural Council	2995.40	
Council on Aging State	2599.34	
Council on Aging Federal	1551.20	
DHCD Senior Housing	16950.00	
Fire Grants	1636.48	
Highway Funds	143434.26	

Library Gifts	503.80	
Library Grant	521.15	
Tree Gift	50.00	
Street & Wright	127.28	
Police Revolving	47287.68	
Gun Permits to State	575.00	
Septic Grant	19377.70	
Tax Collector Fees	3905.00	
Deputy Collector Fees	656.00	
Fish & Wildlife Fees	752.75	
Dog Licenses	697.50	261252.08
STATE & COUNTY ASSESSMENTS		
Air Pollution Control	352.00	
RMV Non-renwal Surch.	240.00	
Pioneer Valley Planning	220.20	
FTRA	956.00	1768.20
TRUST EXPENSE	114.19	114.19
TOTAL Non-Appropriation		751692.99
APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES		3026128.10
See Appropriation Report for Detail		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		**3777821.09**
Cash on Hand June 30,2002		
General	**535758.70**	
Stabilization	**49122.84**	
Trust Funds	**8681.69**	
		593563.23

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Parsons, Accounting Officer

APPROPRIATION REPORT FISCAL 2002

ACCOUNT	BALANCE 7/1/01	APPROPRIATION	TRANSFERS (IN OR OUT)	EXPENDITURES	BALANCE CLOSED	BALANCE TO F2003
COUNSEL FEES	0.00	10000.00	10400.00	20378.54	21.46	
MODERATOR	0.00	150.00		150.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN SALARY	0.00	3200.00		3200.00	0.00	
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	0.00	4100.00				
Travel/Dues				1610.38		
Town Report				730.30		
Town Hall sub				180.00		
Supplies/advertising				1409.67		
				3930.35	169.65	
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.	0.00	7725.00		7725.00	0.00	
AUDITOR SALARY	0.00	150.00		150.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING OFF SALARY	0.00	8446.00		8446.00	0.00	
ACCOUNTING EXPENSE	0.00	1300.00				
Computer Contract				590.00		
Supplies/computer				132.60		
Dues/Travel				283.95		
				1006.55	293.45	
AUDIT		6500.00		5900.00	600.00	

ASSESSORS SALARY	0.00	6200.00	6200.00	0.00	
ASSESSORS EXPENSE	1500.00	3350.00			
Dues/Travel			370.00		
Registry Transfer			226.00		
Revaluation			1125.00		
Consortium			750.00		
Supplies			170.06		
			2641.06	608.94	1600.00
ASSESSORS SECRETARY	0.00	1200.00	1200.00	0.00	
TREASURER SALARY		8446.00	8446.00	0.00	
TREASURER EXPENSE	0.00	3200.00			
Computer Contract			851.00		
Bank Charges			359.22		
Dues/travel			484.10		
Postage			810.25		
Supplies/equipment			620.67		
			3125.24	74.76	
TAX COLLECTOR EXPENSE		3000.00			
Consortium			500.00		
Postage/envelopes			800.04		
Supplies			771.77		
Tax Bills			670.00		
Dues/Travel			120.00		
			2861.81	138.19	
TAX COLLECTOR SALARY	0.00	6494.00	6494.00	0.00	

TOWN CLERK SALARY	0.00	5625.00		5625.00	0.00
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	0.00	1850.00	252.00		
Election Officers				955.18	
Census				150.00	
Supplies/Printing				885.64	
Dues/Travel				55.00	
				2045.82	56.18
CLERK BOARD REGISTRAR	0.00	50.00		50.00	0.00
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	0.00	265.00			
Dues				155.00	
Supplies				50.92	
				205.92	
					59.08
PLANNING BOARD EXPENSE	0.00	200.00		62.56	137.44
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	0.00	3500.00			
Uniforms				1456.00	
Telephone				761.82	
License Renewals				180.00	
Supplies				574.53	
Dues & Travel				253.07	
				3225.42	274.58
HIGHWAY SALARIES	0.00	133500.00		132295.67	1204.33

HOLIDAY PAY	0.00	4435.00		4434.24	0.76	
VACATION PAY	641.20	4413.00		5053.60	0.60	0.00
BRIDGES & RAILINGS	0.00	500.00		500.00	0.00	
HIGHWAY MATERIALS	0.00	50000.00				
Clean Catch Basins				7272.50		
Road Maintenance				42568.36		
				49840.86	159.14	
ROAD MACHINERY		22500.00	300.00			
Repairs				6205.92		
Parts/Supplies				16101.51		
Brush Mower				350.00		
				22657.43	142.57	
ROAD MACHINERY FUEL	0.00	12000.00		8658.75	3341.25	
SNOW REMOVAL	0.00	42000.00				
Overtime				6060.35		
Winter Sand				15283.78		
Salt				17858.89		
Supplies/Repairs				2575.43		
				41778.45	221.55	
ROAD MACHINERY BUILDINGS	0.00	9900.00				
Electricity				1333.75		
Heat				3496.57		
Supplies/Maintenance				4758.35		
				9588.67	311.33	

HIGHWAY RADIOS		2250.00		2250.00	0.00	
SANDER		6500.00		5916.50	583.50	
HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL H.S.	0.00	665777.00		658177.00		
School Project Debt				7600.00		
				665777.00	0.00	
VOCATIONAL	0.00	166209.00	-2000.00			
Tuition				130828.87		
Transportation				23400.00		
				154228.87	9980.13	
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	2060.00	891324.00		867306.04	15445.48	10632.48
See Elementary Report						
CHARTER SCHOOL		5170.00		5149.00	21.00	
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SALARY	0.00	480.00		480.00	0.00	
LIBRARY	0.00	48000.00				
State Aid			2699.18			
Salary				37444.17		
Dues				45.00		
Utilities, Lawns and Repairs				2741.47		
Books and Supplies				10468.54		
				50699.18	0.00	
VETERANS	0.00	3000.00				
Dues/flags				30.00		
Benefits				960.00		
				990.00	2010.00	

VETERANS AGENT SALARY	0.00	550.00	550.00	0.00
MEMORIAL DAY	0.00	100.00	25.96	74.04
CULTURAL COUNCIL		500.00	500.00	0.00
CEMETERY SALARY	0.00	4200.00	4200.00	0.00
POLICE DEPARTMENT		37000.00		
Salary			26745.00	
Mileage			881.02	
Dues			560.00	
Utilities			2423.83	
Antennae			400.00	
WMLEC			250.00	
Equipment/Supplies			2329.55	
Computer			1962.50	
Repairs/Maintenance			1435.27	
			36987.17	12.83
FIRE CHIEF		3000.00	3000.00	0.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT		11420.00		
Training				
Communications			917.00	
Vehicle Repair/Maintenance			7083.79	
Equipment Repair/Maintenance			1657.43	
Telephone & Postage			1069.16	

Susbscriptions			28.97	
Fire Chief Expenses/misc			338.98	
			11095.33	324.67
BRUSH TRUCK	28000.00		27998.30	1.70
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	300.00		240.00	60.00
CONSTABLE	1.00			1.00
INSPECTOR SALARY	7200.00	2000.00		
Building Inspector			4500.00	
Substitute Building Inspector			2170.00	
Plumbing Inspector			750.00	
Sanitation Inspector			350.00	
Wiring Inspector			1425.00	
			9195.00	5.00
TREE WARDEN EXPENSE	1500.00		1488.60	11.40
CIVIL DEFENSE	1.00			1.00
DOG OFFICER	500.00		227.23	272.77
ANIMAL INSPECTOR	500.00		500.00	0.00
HILLTOWN RESOURCE MGT.	4648.00		4647.15	0.85
BOARD OF HEALTH SALARY	3400.00		900.00	
Perc tests/Title V			1890.00	
			2790.00	610.00

BOARD OF HEALTH EXPENSE	3750.00	56520.00			
Landfil Attendant			4671.28		
Hauling			12171.00		
Tipping Fees - Northampton			19202.90		
Transfer Station Utilities			777.25		
Used Paint Program			400.00		
Tire Collection			800.52		
HHWaste			542.00		
Oil Recovery			167.50		
Landfill Monitoring Fees			8700.00		
Landfill Cap Mowing			642.00		
Permit/Stickers			2750.00		
Misc Transfer Station exp.			293.28		
BOH Supplies/misc/training			579.42		
			51697.15	5283.35	3289.50
LANDFILL CAPPING	18261.27				
Fencing			8243.00		
Engineering			5070.08		
			13313.08	3218.27	1729.92
TRANSFER STATION	975.01	0.00	825.00	150.01	
DEBT AND INTEREST					
SCHOOL LOAN		330000.00	330000.00	0.00	
LAMDFILL CAPPING LOAN		40000.00	40000.00	0.00	
HIGHWAY TRUCK LOAN		27500.00	27500.00	0.00	

TRANSFER STATION DEBT	32445.00		32444.73	0.27	
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT	71345.00		71345.00	0.00	
UNCLASSIFIED					
INSURANCE & BONDS	32000.00	4457.00	36457.00	0.00	
TOWN OFFICES	12000.00	2000.00			
Custodian			1389.82		
Electricity			1928.89		
Telephone			1182.54		
Copier			583.25		
Lawns			769.00		
Fuel			1384.66		
Repairs/Improvements			5297.24		
Supplies			382.49		
			12917.89	1082.11	
TOWN HALL REPAIRS	60000.00				60000.00
FEASIBILITY STUDY	25000.00		15500.00	0.00	9500.00
COUNCIL ON AGING	1000.00		1000.00	0.00	
RECREATION	1000.00			1000.00	

HISTORICAL		200.00		133.91	66.09	
COUNTY RETIREMENT		53892.00		53892.00	0.00	
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS		10013.00		10013.00	0.00	
UNEMPLOYMENT		9600.00	-8825.00		775.00	
GROUP INSURANCE		103000.00	-6000.00	94848.42	2151.58	
MEDICARE		8500.00	1800.00	10122.65	177.35	
LAND DAMAGE		1.00		0.00	1.00	
RESERVE FUND		5000.00				
To Town Offices			-2000.00			
To Road Machinery			-300.00			
					2700.00	
	27187.48	3134745.00	4783.18	3026128.10	53835.66	86751.90

BALANCE SHEET JUNE 30, 2002

ASSETS

CASH		535758.70
TAXES		
Personal Property	2002	2285.88
	2001	2474.36
	2000	1830.21
	1999	399.55
	1998	463.27
	1996	555.54
	1995	324.36
	1994	113.80
	1993	100.80
	1992	232.96
	1991	143.52
	1990	99.15
Real Estate	2002	70415.08
	2001	22696.68
	2000	14264.35
	1999	5382.36
	1998	13402.29
	1997	3709.16
	1995	851.60
	1994	4100.38
	1993	60.20
	1992	30.66
Motor Vehicle Excise		
	2002	5799.21
	2001	2387.47
	2000	413.64
	1999	181.68
	1998	908.47
	1997	156.06
	1996	725.10
	1995	122.50
	1994	867.72
	1993	498.33
	1992	242.92
	1991	231.25
	1990	530.94
	1989	208.77
	1988	346.67
	1987	13.75
Farm Animal Excise		282.10

LIABILITIES

AGENCY	5836.42
AMT TO BE PROVIDED	
Tax Title Expense	1000.00
GIFTS	
Cemetery Gift	3491.21
Town Hall Gift	95.79
Town Water Gift	604.70
Library Gift	2594.75
Tree Gift	40.00
Brush Mower	170.57
Cultural Fund	135.00
TRUST INCOME	1205.56
GRANTS	
Cultural Council	3478.47
St. Aid to Libraries	2562.10
Library MARCS	578.85
Fire Safe/DEM	1430.22
Council on Aging	81.46
School Grants	43.80
Chapter 235-235331	34980.73
Septic Loan Repaymt	3632.91
Septic Grant Interest	4456.02
REVOLVING FDS	
Landfill Revolving	1391.87
Landfill Closure	4045.00
Preschool	16750.97
Kindergarten Enhance	4061.38
School Lunch	2613.51
School Building Use	4500.00
OVER ESTIMATE	
County Tax	62.00
RECEIPTS RESERVED	
ConCom Fund	5529.73
Conservation Grant	500.00
Refunded Dog Tax	562.24
Sale of TownProperty	106000.00

ACCTS RECEIVABLE		**REVENUE RESERVED**	
State Aid to Highways	38885.64	Tax Title Revenue	1191.24
Due from Comm Mass	3514.00	MVE Revenue	13634.48
		Farm Excise Revenue	282.10
		OVERLAY RESERVES	
AGENCY		2002	12769.36
Due to CM State Tax	93.04	2001	12809.93
		2000	6590.61
REVOLVING FUNDS		1999	99.15
Police Revolving Fund	4100.52	1998	143.52
		1997	171.50
UNDER-ESTIMATES		1995	2813.34
RMV Non-renewal	240.00	1994	1353.68
		1993	2420.06
Reg. Transit Authority	271.00	1991	2188.45
		1990	9080.85
OVERLAY RESERVES		**SURPLUS**	
Overlay F1996	978.81	Surplus Revenue	378150.26
		APPROPRIATIONS	
		Assessors Expense	1600.00
		Elementary School	10632.48
		Board Health Expense	3289.50
		Landfill Capping	1729.92
		Town Hall Repairs	60000.00
		Feasibility Study	9500.00
Total Assets	742885.69	Total Liabilities	742885.69

BALANCE SHEET - TRUST, INVESTMENT AND DEBT

TRUST CASH	57804.53	Street & Wright Fd.	2400.54
		Thayer Fund	1015.01
		Cemetery Funds	3737.45
		Stabilization	49122.84
		Veterans	1528.69
Total Assets	57804.53	57804.53	56660.93
LONG TERM DEBT	1460000	New School	1070000
		Town Hall Repair	60000
		Landfill Capping	310000
		Transfer Station	20000
Total Long Term Debt	1460000		1460000

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

As of January 1, 2002, the Finance Committee members and the end dates of their respective terms were:

Owen Bowman	2002
David Brown	2002
Karl Norris	2002
Cathy Shaw	2002
Priscilla Flynn	2003
Ellice Gonzalez	2003
Margaret Parsons	2003
Karla Stefansson	2003
Wallace Hlava	2004
Mark Thornhill	2004

At the town elections in June, Owen Bowman, David Brown, Karl Norris, and Cathy Shaw were re-elected for three year terms. Karl Norris, now on the Selectboard, resigned from the Board in January 2003 and was replaced by Bret LaFrance.

Reserve Fund transfers made in Fiscal 2002 were as follows:

Town Offices	2000.00
Road Machinery	300.00

As of December 31, 2002 the following Reserve Fund Transfers had been made for Fiscal 2002:

Police Department	$1000

Recommendations were made to Special Town Meetings to transfer moneys from available funds to cover deficits in various accounts in Fiscal 2002:

Insurance & Bonds	$2,625
Counsel Fees	10,400
Medicare	1,800
Inspector Salary	2,000

Throughout the late winter and early spring, the Finance Committee held budget hearings with the various town departments. The Finance Committee recommended reducing budget requests by a total of $81,000 in order to stay within the limits of Proposition 2½. Town Meeting, May 13, 2002, followed the recommendations of the FinCom, with the exception of voting an additional $1800 to the 225th celebration. The $2000 so voted was taken from the Stabilization Fund, as was $20,000 for a matching grant for Library Construction planning. Subsequently, the Hampshire Regional Assessment, which was adopted by the other four towns, required us to vote an additional $35,723 to support the budget. A Special Town Meeting in September appropriated $15,723 from Free Cash and $20,000 from taxation, which was possible through more state revenues being promised than anticipated at the May Annual Town Meeting.

In June, the Finance Committee met with the Community Facilities Committee to discuss the proposed $3 million capital project which included building a new highway garage, buying a fire truck, renovating the current highway garage for the fire and police departments, and purchase of the Church Parsonage for library or town office space. The Finance Committee recommended bonding for this project and it was approved at a special town meeting in January of 2002, contingent upon a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion ballot vote. A Special Election was held in September and the ballot question was defeated by a large margin. The Community Facilities Committee came back with a reduced project for $1.7 million to build a highway garage and purchase a fire truck. FinCom recommended the project and it was adopted by a Special Town Meeting in December and the debt exclusion approved by voters at a Special Election in February 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

David Brown, Chairman

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The winter of 2001-2002 proved to be quite mild and dry, not much rain or snow. As a result, the snow removal budget was not overspent. The lack of snow allowed us to spend much of the winter months cutting brush and overhanging limbs from the roadsides.

Currently the South Road reconstruction project is waiting a revision of the storm water pollution prevention plan. The plan submitted originally does not meet the Federal Register criteria.

In early spring, it became apparent that beavers on Northwest Road and Rt. 66 were going to cause these roads to flood. With the help of "Beaver Solutions" of Hadley, a pond leveling flow device was installed on Northwest Road. To date, it has worked well and maintains a level that does not threaten the road. On Rt. 66, because of the location of the dam, no workable solution could be found. As a result the beavers were removed.

The summer was spent cleaning ditches and road edges in preparation for stone sealing or overlaying the following roads:

Northwest Road	1 mile	Shim & stone seal
Southampton Road	2/10 mile	Stone seal
Turkey Hill Road	All	Stone seal
Perry Hill Road	3/10 mile	Shim & stone seal
Southampton Road	½ mile	Shim & overlay
Chesterfield Road	½ mile	Shim & overlay

A section of Edwards Road, at its intersection with Crowley Road, was widened to allow two cars to meet, and to improve sight distance around this curve. Reservoir Road Extension was improved past the last house, to allow a landowner access to his property.

Erosion from a drainage pipe at 90 North Road made it necessary to relocate this pipe. A drainage easement was given to the town by the property owners. The damaged area was filled in and seeded to

prevent further erosion.

Repairs were made to our salt shed and our storage building on Cemetery Road.

Many thanks to Bob Miller for setting the Highway Department up with our first ever computer. Bob spent many hours searching for discarded parts at the Elementary School, the Transfer Station "swap shop" and his own cellar. He was able to put together a system that makes record keeping much easier, and more complete. All at no cost. Even more impressive, he was able to teach me how to use it!

All of our equipment continues to serve us well. As I look at our replacement schedule for highway equipment, we have one dump truck due to be replaced in FY04. But this truck remains in good condition and should last one more year.

In June, we will start our third year with our shared brush mower.

Again I thank Peter Montague, Jerry Ostrowski, and Mike Robbins. I feel very fortunate to have such a dedicated and competent crew.

Respectfully submitted,

David Blakesley
Highway Superintendent

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

During the year of 2002, the Westhampton Police Department had an increase in officer calls from our previous year. Officers of the Westhampton Police Department do their very best to provide the residents of Westhampton with the most professional and the most expedient service possible. The Department currently has a total of seven members. One of the officers is a special who is available for any School functions and all other detail work. We have also added a Department secretary. The other five officers are available for regular patrols and emergency calls that come through our 911 dispatch. All business and non-emergency calls to the Westhampton Police Department should go through the 527-6154 number, and all emergency calls through 911.

Gun permit applications, unless otherwise posted, will be taken on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at the Town Hall. If, for some reason, a resident cannot make the above times, I will reschedule for their convenience.

I would like to thank the Officers of the Westhampton Police Department for their dedicated service to the Department and the residents of Westhampton.

911 Hang-up	12	Harassment	2
911 Misdial	18	Larceny-Petty	1
Accidents	13	Medical	11
Accident Damage	13	Miscellaneous	2
Accident Injury	4	Mass State Police	8
Alarm	63	M/V Complaint	12
Annoying Accost	2	M/V Violation	14
Animal	3	Noise Complaint	8
Assist Other	1	Officer Wanted	12
Assault	1	Repossession	1
Breaking and Entering	1	Shots Fired	1
Cancelled Call	4	Suspicious Person	2
Domestic	2	Suspicious. Vehicle	4
False Alarm	1	Traffic Hazard	9
Fire	4	Unfounded	2

Total 911 calls - 236

Moneys turned in to the Treasurer:

Gun permits	$ 557.50
Court fines	7037.50
Insurance reports	$ 70.00
	$7665.00

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence R. Lovett
Chief of Police

REPORT OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

This report covers the calendar year of 2002 for the Fire Dept and the Fire Fighters Association.

The fire department accepted the resignations of Lorrie Gougeon, Susan Harrison, Ken Wood and Levi (Mike) Robbins. We thank them for their many years of volunteer service to the residents of Westhampton.

We appointed John Taylor as a new member. John comes to us with prior fire fighting experience. The department still has openings for anyone interested; please contact the fire chief.

Work was completed on the 2002 cab & chassis purchased as the base of our new brush truck. The members, with assistance from some of our very handy citizens, worked long hours to redesign and upgrade the truck. It is now outfitted with a new hose reel, a 225 gallon tank, an equipped tool box, forestry hose, and a foam system for brush fires. A forestry grant—applied for and awarded—helped with the purchase of this new equipment.

E-2 was driven to The Greenwood Apparatus Co. to undergo a pump test in July. It passed the test—and after minor adjustments and replacement of some gages—it received certification. E-2, purchased new in 1987, is our main fire-fighting unit.

T-1, the tanker, needed four new tires for the rear and a complete brake job. This is a 1990 cab & chassis that the department built into a 3,000 gallon tank truck. The truck is in good condition and with continued maintenance it will remain serviceable.

Department members continue to donate a large amount of time to their fire/safety/first responder training, vehicle upkeep, Elementary School Fire Safety Training, and fire and EMS calls. Many hours were also given to: the continuing work of installing the mandated house numbering system, numerous fire department inspections, issuance of various permits, inspections and education at the construction site of Hampshire Regional High School, and the putting up and taking down of the new flags in the center of town. I am certain that you join me in saying a big THANK YOU for their dedication to Westhampton.

The department thanks those who gave donations to the Association in memory of loved ones, or with a note of thanks for our efforts. We truly appreciate the support the community gives to the fire department.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Shaw, Jr.
Fire Chief

REPORT OF THE ANIMAL INSPECTOR

The annual Farm Animal Census has been completed as required by the State Bureau of Animal Health. The results as of January 1, 2003 are as follows:

Dairy Cattle	288
Beef Cattle	31
Oxen	1
Horses	110
Ponies	3
Donkeys	8
Mules	2
Sheep	36
Goats	2
Swine	3
Llamas	1
Chickens	276
Guineas	5
Water Fowl	53
Rabbits	9

All the animals appeared healthy and well cared for.

At the annual Animal Inspectors meeting, there was considerable discussion regarding the potential threat of a major disease outbreak such as Foot and Mouth or of bio-terrorism. In order to plan as well as possible for such a problem, the State has asked us to be as complete as possible when doing the Animal Census. Accordingly, if I missed anyone with a few chickens or a pony or any other livestock, please let me know so that next year's census can be as complete as possible.

There were no quarantines issued in 2002. However, rabies is an ongoing concern and I thank the residents of Westhampton for doing a good job of keeping their pets and livestock vaccinated.

If anyone has questions about rabies or other animal health issues, please contact me. If I can't answer them, I can help find someone who can.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard I. Tracy
Animal Health Inspector

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board continues to hold hours at Town Hall from 7 PM to 9 PM on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

Current members of the Board are:

Kenneth Smith (exp. 2005)
Barry Brandow (exp. 2003)
Martin Flynn (exp. 2004)

Board members expended:

Approximately 125 hours conducting inspections and investigating complaints-
108 hours witnessing 37 percolation tests and 11 Title 5 system inspections-

The Board issued:

26 Disposal Works Permits to installers and haulers-
32 Permits for system repairs, upgrades and new construction-
4 General Licenses to food service establishments and camps

On April 18, 2002, the Board sponsored a rabies clinic at the firehouse that had 46 participants.

The transfer station received a total of 483.6 tons of waste material in CY 2002.

The following is a breakdown of the disposition of this waste –

Compacted refuse	241.7 Tons	+ 12% from 2001
Const. & Demolition	67.4 Tons	+ 21% from 2001
Clean wood waste	6.9 Tons	new category
Gen. recyclables	125.7 Tons	+5% from 2001
Tires	1.4 Tons	approximate
Metals	25.3 Tons	no change
Electronics	1.9 Tons	N/A
Old Paint	1.1 Tons	N/A
Propane tanks	1.1 Tons	new
Waste oil	790 gallons	

Operating costs for FY 2002

Voted budget -	$58,874.00
Expenditures -	$54,526.15
Fees collected -	$37,123.30
Net operating cost -	$17,402.85

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth Smith
Barry Brandow
Martin Flynn

REPORT OF THE HILLTOWN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

Since 1989 the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, a unique regional organization made up of eleven towns, has, through its one employee, its Administrator, helped your town manage its solid waste and recycling programs. On an annual basis the HRMC assists your town in the following ways:

• Assists with and monitor all current recycling and diversion efforts, efforts which save the town on disposal costs each year.

•Monitors the Salvation Army, tire, electronics, paint and HHW, battery and propane tank recycling and collection programs.

•Performed general recycling outreach and public education efforts.

•Monitors the Springfield MRF recycling program.

•Monitors all regular transfer station activities through regular site visits.

•Develops new recycling programs as well as obtains new transfer station equipment through DEP grant programs, when available.

•Obtained cash grants on behalf of the town and the HRMC, whenever possible.

•Assists town with DEP regulatory issues related to your transfer station. This includes keeping town current and in compliance on all DEP recycling programs and regularly submitting data and information to DEP on behalf of the town.

•Assists Town in bidding of waste hauling and recycling contracts.

•Assists town with any landfill closure and monitoring issues when

they arise.

•The HRMC Administrator participates on the following local and statewide boards on behalf of your town:

- The Statewide Solid Waste Task Force
- The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility Advisory Board (Current Chairman)
- Northampton Solid Waste Advisory Committee

•Works closely with State legislators on waste management and recycling issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Weiss
Administrator, HRMC

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board reviewed and approved approximately 7 building lots and building permit applications this past year. The board also looked at one small dead-end subdivision proposal. It was abandoned for a single family estate like home.

The Board granted two Special Permits. One was for a seasonal maple sugar house restaurant and the other was for a small lot to sell no more than 2 cars or pieces of heavy equipment.

The most noteworthy issue dealt with by the Board was earth removal operations. Earth removal operators sponsored a new zoning by-law which went through the public hearing process and was

worked on by an informal group of concerned residents representing diverse opinions. There was some compromise, but a total consensus could not be achieved. The Planning Board recommended to the Select Board with some minor changes the operators' proposed by-law containing the agreed upon changes and additions made by the informal group. At the special town meeting, held on March 17, 2003, the earth removal by-law was passed by a 2/3 majority vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark T. Schwallie, Chair

REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

In 2002 the Zoning Board of Appeals approved special permits for properties at 95 Southampton Road and 252 Kings Highway. The board also arrived at findings with reference to properties at 95 Southampton Road and 85 Easthampton Road which constituted determinations that special permits were not required for the specific projects in question. Two applications were returned as incomplete and hearings were not held in CY 2002.

The current members of the Zoning Board of Appeals are:
Barry Brandow, Lori Devine, Wayne Parks, Michael Burstein, Chris Norris, Leo Aloisi and Richard Tracy.

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEMBERS: Larry Cervelli, chairman, Bob La Palme, secretary, Dan Pikett, Tom Jenkins, **New Members:** Matt Montague, Janet LaPrade, Brad Morse

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Linda Webster-Davis, Steve Holt, Walter Brown, **New Associate:** Fred Morrison

Other Changes: Nancy Whitley left the Commission after many years of service. The Commission appreciates her commitment to the work of the Commission and will miss her wit and enthusiasm.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Westhampton Conservation Commission (WCC), exists to locally implement the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and Rivers Protection Act (RPA) on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission provides consultation to the town's citizens wishing to engage in activities within areas subject to regulation to ensure they may do so while remaining within regulatory guidelines and state law.

The WPA/RPA is intended to protect public and private water supplies and ground water, provide flood control and storm damage prevention, protect fisheries and wildlife habitat, and prevent pollution. Areas subject to WPA/RPA regulations are within 200 feet of any river, creek, or stream, and within 100 feet of any wet area abutting a seasonal stream, lake, pond, or marsh, and any land subject to flooding.

ACTIVIES:

- Site visits----------20
- Public hearings conducted---------- 8
- Beaver dam evaluations----------1
- Violations/complaints/investigations-----3
- Timber harvest (15 applications)----------600 acres

BUDGET: [state law mandates fees be used only for Conservation Commission activities]

- Fees: $546.25
- Balance: $5529.73

OTHER ACTIVITIES:.

- Open Space Committee

  Under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Cleary, chairperson, after more than two years of intense work The Open Space and

Recreation Plan was submitted to the State of Massachusetts and approved. This allows the town to apply for state grants to address open space and conservation opportunities in the town. This Committee has now been moved to the supervision of the Selectboard

- King's Highway Bridge

The Commission reviewed plans, conducted site visits, and communicated with Mass Highway Dept. throughout the planning and construction process. Bob LaPalme served as primary reviewer of this project.

- Hampshire Regional High School Renovation

The Commission has worked closely with contractors and town boards to ensure the project moved forward while considering WPA/RPA issues prevalent on the site. Steve Holt continues to be the primary project reviewer.

- Inter-board communication

The Commission continues to work closely with the Board of Health to improve procedures related to percolation tests and septic system installations that are effected by the WPA/RPA. Dan Pikett is the primary contact with the BOH.

- Earth removal bylaw committee: Commission members Steve Holt and Bob LaPalme served on this committee.
- Town 225th Anniversary: Commission members Matt Montague and Dan Pikett are participating in planning for this celebration.
- Commission in-service training:. Steve Holt and Linda Webster-Davis discussed wetlands workshops they attended. Larry presented on the Connecticut River watershed Action Plan .
- Membership Recruitment: The Commission continued the Associate Member program to recruit individuals committed to the principles embodied by the WPA/RPA and engage them in Commission activities.

Bob LaPalme, secretary

REPORT OF THE SANITATION INSPECTOR

There were 11 septic systems installed for new homes. There were 14 complete systems that were upgraded on existing homes. There was one system that only had the tank replaced.

There were also 9 septic inspections for work done on the new addition at the Hampshire Regional High School. They started on April 10 with the last inspection on December 19, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Stillman G. Brooks
Sanitation Inspector

REPORT OF THE PLUMBING INSPECTOR

During 2002, the office of the Plumbing and Gas Piping Inspector received a total of 37 requests for permits. There were 7 for new homes, 12 for remodeling and 18 for gas piping.

The sum of $6345 was collected for permit and inspection fees. $5860 of the total collected was for plumbing permits, and $485 was for gas piping permits.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Pichette

REPORT OF THE BUILDING INSPECTOR

This is the report of the Building Inspector for the last two years. We did quite well with not too many problems.

Permits issued in 2001:

One Family	9
Two Family	0
Additions	10
Renovations	10
Basement Rooms	1
Above Ground Pool	7
Inground Pool	0
Decks	22
Garages	4
Siding	3
Sheds	8
Signs	0
Windows	4
Reroof	13
Barns	8
Wood Stoves	7
Chimneys	0
Demo Barns	0
Demo garage	0
	106

Total valuation of building permits was $3,000,000. Building permit fees were $20,614.

Permits issued in 2002:

One Family	12
Two Family	0
Additions	8
Renovations	13
Basement Rooms	1
Above Ground Pool	4
Inground Pool	2
Decks	16
Garages	1
Siding	5
Sheds	18
Signs	0
Windows	19
Reroof	13
Barns	1
Wood Stoves	3
Chimneys	1
Demo Barns	3
Cell Tower Addition	2
School Addition	2
	124

Total valuation of building permits was $2,010,989. Building permit fees were $14,205.60.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron Pietraszkiewicz
Building Inspector

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES COMMITTEE

After years of requests and proposals for more space for town departments, the Community Facilities Committee was appointed by the Selectboard in the fall of 2001 to evaluate town-wide needs and how best to utilize town buildings. Appointed to the Committee were: Arthur Pichette, Chairman, David Blakesley, Ben Coggins, Michael Diggins, Steve Holt, Dorothy Miller, Margaret Parsons, Barbara Pelissier, Bll Tracy, and John Zimmerman. In January 2002, $25000 was voted to hire an architect to do a feasibility study. Leon Pernice of West Springfield was hired and met with town boards, evaluated the current buildings, and prepared a report with various options. This document is part of this report and is available through the Town Clerk. The Selectboard held an informational hearing on July 10th, 2002. At a Special Town Meeting on July 17th, the townspeople present voted to bond $3 million to accomplish the following projects:

1. Purchase of the parsonage property for possible use by the library or the town.
2. Purchase of a new fire truck.
3. Construction of a new highway garage at the landfill.
4. Renovation of the current highway/fire building for fire and police.

That vote was contingent upon the successful passage of a ballot question to exempt the costs of the project from the limitations of Proposition 2 ½. A Special Election was held on September 9, 2002 and the question was defeated by a large margin.

After much discussion, the Community Facilities Committee decided to go back to the town for a reduced project, having felt that the main objection to the original project was the cost. It was felt that the fire truck and a new highway garage should be dealt with first. The Committee presented a revised project for $1,715,000 for these projects to the Selectboard and the Finance Committee, which recommended its approval. Voters at a Special Town Meeting in

December approved the project, subject to a Proposition 2 1/2 ballot question, which was approved at a Special Election in February 2003.

The Committee is grateful for the Town's support in addressing the town's capital needs. This is the final report of the Community Facilities Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur Pichette, Chair

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging has continued in 2002 to provide a wide variety of activities and services to Westhampton seniors. Town, state and federal funds, together with the combined efforts of many volunteers, make these programs possible.

In June, Francis Cote stepped down as member at-large and was replaced in September by Liz Anderson. Fran has given many hours of service over a number of years and continues to be very active in the COA. At each meeting he has honored the people celebrating a birthday with a rose he has fashioned and every holiday a gift of a holiday decoration is given to all.

Our monthly luncheons continued with about 40 in attendance at each meeting. Our Christmas luncheon, in spite of a very snowy day, enjoyed the Hilltones Musical group. The Southampton COA was again invited to join us. At the May luncheon the fourth grade and their grandparents joined us. The program was a skit "Sponge Bob Squarepants" put on by the fourth graders with the help of Greg Kerstetter, their teacher. In July we enjoyed our annual end of the year picnic and appreciation event with presentation of volunteer

recognition awards. A thank you to Edgar and Jean Alward for hosting the picnic over the years, at their home at Pine Island Lake. They have now relocated so this year was our last time at their home for the picnic.

The Hilltown Elder Network (HEN), with Olga Hathaway, coordinator, continued for its 11th year, and provided 16 seniors with 739 hours of light housework and yard work.

Our home repair program, coordinated by Edgar Alward has provided assistance with minor repair to two senior households. The program provides labor free of charge, with the homeowners providing materials. The Highland Valley Elder Services have also been of assistance and can be viewed at their web site.

We continued our contract with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, which provided on-on-one transportation free of charge to seniors needing doctors' appointments, grocery errands etc. With Charles and Gerry Ognibene as dispatchers, 12 volunteer drivers gave a total of 340.5 hours, and drove 4181 miles.

Ed Alward has continued as editor of our quarterly newsletter, mailed to every Westhampton senior household. Frank Hathaway assists in coordinating material and several other volunteers help put out a high quality newspaper. We were proud to learn that our newsletter has been mentioned by state COA officials, as the best newsletter in Massachusetts. We urge all seniors to "read your newsletter"! Thanks, Ed, for another year of informative newsletters.

The annual flu clinic provided 100 flu shots in October. The state cut allotments this year by 10%, so we did not receive the 120 doses we requested. Assisting at the clinic were Mary Montague and Peg Kelley.

The COA now owns a computer and printer which is housed in the library of the elementary school. This may be used by any town senior on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 9AM to 2:30 PM

when school is in session.

We were very fortunate this fall to receive ten 4-year-old computers from Smith College, to be used for our members in any way we wish. We own these computers, but cannot sell them to any individual. It was decided to loan them for six month periods to any senior wishing to become familiar with computers. By the end of December, nine of ten had been placed in a senior household. At the end of six months, we will reevaluate placement on an individual basis.

Frank and Olga Hathaway organized our third annual garden tour on June 21. Featuring several Westhampton gardens, each one unique, the event was a great success. Proceeds from this, and from our "Potato Bar" supper in the fall allowed us to schedule two bus trips. In June we visited the Mashanticket Pequot Museum, in October we enjoyed a visit to the Essex Steam Train & Riverboat rides in Essex, Connecticut.

The COA was instrumental in forming the Westhampton S.A.L.T. council in Mary 1996, and continues to support the many projects undertaken by this group. S.A.L.T. is an acronym for "Seniors And Law Together". Our local council with Charles Ognibene as chairman, consisted of Westhampton seniors, The Westhampton Police Department, The Hampshire County Sheriffs Office, and the Northwestern District Attorneys Office. The S.A.L.T. Council meets monthly to plan, develop, activate and implement programs that will be for Westhampton seniors and townspeople. The mission is to help avoid criminal victimization, be aware of current frauds and scams, and to cope with fraudulent telephone solicitation. The Council helped set up the File of Life, car etching, smoke detectors, tap lights, and most recently, personal alarms and safety light sticks. Presently they are involved with the house numbering program. The S.A.L.T. Council also joined the COA in sponsoring the "Potato Bar" supper last fall.

The S.A.L.T. Council is part of "TRIAD", a national community policing initiative between seniors, law enforcement and human

service providers to increase safety and confidence for older citizens through education and crime prevention.

We continue to provide take-out meals and blood pressure checks each month, get-well and birthday cards to all town seniors, and companionship to homebound elders when requested. Our three-time weekly exercise classes have continued.

As always we are grateful for the interest and support we receive for the church and from town and school officials. We invite all seniors to our monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Kelley, Chair
Jean Alward
Francis Cote
Lillian Cote
Sally Lawton
Louise Marchand
Charles Ognibene

REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Blacksmith Shop Museum committee meets on the third Tuesday from March to September. The museum is open to the public starting Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, on Sundays from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Members of the Historical Commission serve as hosts.

Our committee members have remained the same with Ann Braastad, president, Liz Anderson, secretary, Daniel Krug, Barbara Fuller and Tom Warren. Tom has been serving his country in Afghanistan for a part of this year. Our thanks to Gerry Ognibene, who has served as

the treasurer for the Friends of the Blacksmith Shop Museum for a number of years.

This is the first year we have helped to raise funds by holding an antiques appraisal night on Wednesday, April 10 with Douglas Auctioneers doing the appraisals. It was well received by the Westhampton community and the funds that were raised helped with the upkeep and renovations at the museum.

Repairs were needed to museum building, which was beginning to have some water damage that caused dry rot to the front of the building. We hired Richard Pierce to replace the front entrance ramp, replace and paint a number of boards at the front and over the front door. He also replaced the sill, step and threshold at the side door. We are also making plans to construct a ramp for the handicapped.

Many thanks to those who visited and have given articles and donations to the museum. We appreciate all those who help us to preserve Westhampton's history.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Anderson, secretary

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON 225TH BIRTHDAY COMMITTEE

About a year ago, Julie Holt suggested that a Committee be formed to organize a 225th birthday celebration for Westhampton during the summer of 2003. While the Committee is not large in number, we have been busy. This celebration will take place on August 15, 16 & 17th, with a variety of activities for the young, old & in-between, including a parade, car show, firemen's muster, kid's carnival, woodsmen's competition, chicken BBQ, square dance, teen dance,

fireworks, tethered hot-air balloon rides, graveyard walks, and a musical extravaganza featuring some of Westhampton's talented musicians and singers. There will also be a Center School Reunion and a Westhampton Marketplace showcasing local artists and crafters. Money to support some of these events has been raised by selling Westhampton sweatshirts, magnets and tee-shirts (available soon). Updates on this celebration can be found each month in the BellTower. Committee members are: Stacey & Tom Jenkins, Julie & Steve Holt, Bill & Janice Tracy, Lydia Omasta, Barb Pelissier, Jacqui LaFrance, Helene Pajak, Sarah Mulvehill & Mikki Nevins.

Respectfully submitted

Mikki Nevins, Secretary

REPORT OF THE CEMETERY CARETAKER

This past year was a normal cleanup year with early mowing. The center section of fence was replaced due to the boards rotting. Thanks to the painting crew headed up by Bob and Nance Macdonald. The plastic water tanks were replaced with stainless steel ones, which are working out very well. Some regrading and seeding work was done in the front of section 2, where there was some erosion. A backpack leaf blower was added to our power tools. It helps tremendously in the cleaning process. The future expansion is progressing. Thanks go to the fire department for keeping the water tanks filled.

There were:

5 burials
4 cremations
4 foundations
10 new lots

Respectfully submitted,

Edward C. Fisher
Cemetery Caretaker

REPORT OF THE WESTHAMPTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Westhampton Memorial Library is overseen by a six-member Board of Trustees, elected by town residents to serve for three-year terms. The trustees meet in the Library on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Their duties include setting policy, overseeing finances and the physical plant, supervising the library director and addressing planning and development issues. We welcome visitors to our meetings.

The Board of Trustees underwent several changes in its makeup this year. Two new members, Robert Fleischner and Raymond Giordano, were elected in June 2002, filling vacancies left by Ann Tracy and Dorothy Miller. In February 2003, Rosemarie Coombs was appointed by the Select Board to fill the vacancy left when Hilary Nolan resigned due to her expanded duties as a member of the library staff.

Dot Miller's many years of exemplary service to the Board of Trustees were recognized in 2002 by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, which awarded her a rare distinction, its certificate of commendation.

The library is staffed by a full-time director, Carolyn Keating, who has overseen library operations for the past 12 years with a high degree of professionalism. Andrea Belanger left the staff last fall; Hilary Nolan expanded her hours and serves as the library's staff assistant, responsible for preschool story hours and other children's programming as well as general library duties. Sarah Fisher served as custodian for much of the past year; Amy Thornton followed her in that position.

In addition to its paid staff, the library relies on a dedicated group of volunteers who assist with general duties and special projects, such as the recent computer cataloging of all library holdings.

The library's collection consists of 8,900 items. There are 932 card-

holders, an increase of 62 over last year. Circulation for 2002 was 18,627, and 902 patron requests for interlibrary loans were filled.

There were 44 programs for children in 2002, including preschool story hours, a Harry Potter Reading Club aimed at students in grades 2 through 6, and a summer reading program. Total attendance for these events was 749.

The children's programs were funded by the Friends of the Library and the Westhampton Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The Westhampton Summer Concert Series, which brought the community together for performances by popular musicians, was also funded by the Cultural Councils, and by the Easthampton Savings Bank.

An adult reading group continued to meet monthly. The library sponsored 15 programs for adults in 2002, attracting 535 people.

The library is open five days a week, with evening hours twice a week. The staff assists patrons with research projects and materials requests, using the library's own collection and the resources of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. In addition, the library has a high-speed Internet connection, and two of its four computers are available for public use.

Thanks to the efforts of staff and volunteers, the library catalog is now online at http://wmars.cwmars.org/search/. The majority of the collection has been entered in the catalog and barcoded for inventory and circulation purposes. We expect that automated circulation will have begun by Spring 2003. We hope to continue to receive grant money from the state to defray the annual CW/MARS membership costs.

As always, we are grateful to the many people who help the library through donations of cash or other gifts.

The Friends of the Library group continues to be a major source of support. The plant and book sale in May, now in its fifth year, is a much-anticipated event, attended by people from out of town as well as Westhampton. The Friends group sends a newsletter to all Westhampton households three times a year.

The library is used as a meeting space on a regular basis by a number of groups, including the Friends of the Library, the Conservation Commission, the Finance Committee, the Council on Aging garden tour committee, the Cultural Council, the Women's Club, the Board of Health, the Cable Advisory Committee, the bylaw proposal groups and the Westhampton 225 group.

The library continues to plan its future in light of town needs and resources. A $20,000 planning and design grant from the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program was matched by the town at the 2002 Annual Town Meeting, and a study committee was established soon after. The committee is led by Carolyn Keating, and its members are Robert Fleischner, Dorothy Miller, Hilary Nolan and Laurie Sanders. The grant will enable the committee to complete a building program and hire an architect to investigate various possibilities: adding to the present building, purchasing another property for renovation, or building at another location some time in the future. The trustees' goal is to ensure that the town has a well-equipped, attractive and accessible library facility that residents can enjoy for years to come.

In the past year, our finances, like those of many town departments, have been adversely affected by state budget cuts; in particular, library cuts have diminished the service we receive from the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. We realize that this is a difficult time for Massachusetts, and for Westhampton, and our budget request reflects the minimum needed for us to maintain our state certification. We hope that the town will continue to recognize the many services the library provides and will support that budget request.

Respectfully submitted,

Trustees of the Westhampton Memorial Library
Margot Cleary, Chair (Term expires 2003)
Rosemarie Coombs (2003)
Robert Fleischner (2005)
Raymond Giordano (2005)
Louise Montague, Secretary (2004)
Victoria Yoshen, Treasurer (2003)

REPORT OF THE LIBRARY TREASURER

July 1, 2001 - June 30, 2002

REVENUES

Donations, Gifts & Interest	$5,068.26
Memorial accounts	1,793.65
State Appropriations	2,699.18
Town Appropriation	48,000.00
Total Revenues	$57,561.09

EXPENSES

Material Purchasing	$10,561.16
C/WMARS related	1,532.00
Wages	37,965.32
Programs	348.54
Building related	4,017.59
Office costs	3.136.48
Total Expenses	$57,561.09

REPORT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Westhampton School Committee meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Westhampton Elementary School. The meetings begin at 7:00pm. The committee members are David Antosz, Chairperson; Maureen Dempsey, Vice-chairperson; and Charleen Diggins, Secretary. Each member also represents Westhampton on the following committees: Hampshire Regional School Committee, Maureen Dempsey; Hampshire Educational Collaborative and Vice-Chairperson to the Administrative Advisory Board, David Antosz; Regional Education/Business Alliance, Charleen Diggins.

The Westhampton School Committee acts as the board of directors for the elementary school. The committee's responsibilities include budget, contract negotiations with the teachers association, local education policy decisions and to hire, supervise and evaluate the superintendent. The superintendent is responsible for hiring, supervising and evaluating the principal and the principal carries that responsibility for the teaching staff. The State Board of Education establishes the general spending levels, statewide education policy and curriculum.

This year we have been busy establishing new policy for communication and use of electronic messaging by School Committee Members. We approved a job description for Aides and Assistants working in the school. We again have had to look at the Pre-school program and re-evaluate the program yearly. Our biggest challenge has been the budget. With the state cuts we have worked hard to maintain the high standards at the school. We are looking at next year's budget and will attempt to maintain the excellent level of education at the school in lieu of the tight state budget.

We continue to look into areas of the curriculum that may need changes or updates that we feel will benefit the children of Westhampton. We welcome any suggestions for change or

improvements by area residents.

We welcomed the new principal Deane Bates to the school. He has fill to the hole that was created when Don McLeod retired. He has become familiar with the school, community, staff and building. He has adjusted to his first year we look forward to working with him for many years.

The Westhampton Elementary School continues to be utilized by the community and youth groups. We have a very supportive PTO and WeCare committee that help to provide school activities and create a safe school environment. We are excited that a committee is being formed to work on improvement to the play structure and play equipment at the school. It is this dedication to the school that helps make it a great learning environment. We appreciate all the work that is done by the committees and all the volunteers that help during the school year.

Respectfully submitted

Charleen Diggins, Secretary
David Antosz, Chairperson
Maureen Dempsey, Vice-chairperson

2002 SCHOOL REPORT FOR WESTHAMPTON

Personnel employed by the Westhampton School Department in 2002:

Deane Bates Jr. Jessica Bishop Mary Ellen Gorman

Personnel who left the employ of the Westhampton School Department in 2002:

Theresa Flynn
Donald MacLeod
Louise Jasionkowski
Lynn Vesely

October 1 enrollment of Westhampton students at the Westhampton Elementary School:

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
Preschool	16	16	18	19	18
Kindergarten	23	15	18	20	20
Grade 1	15	23	17	15	20
Grade 2	20	17	22	16	16
Grade 3	22	18	19	22	15
Grade 4	23	21	19	16	21
Grade 5	25	23	20	19	17
Grade 6	24	24	21	20	17
TOTAL	168	157	154	147	144

October 1 enrollment of Westhampton students in other elementary grade settings:

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	
Charter Schools	3	3	2	0	0	
Schools of Choice	0	0	0	3	2	
Home-schooled	0	0	0	0	0	
Private schools	13	11	10	9	9	*

October 1 enrollment of Westhampton students in secondary schools:

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	
Hampshire Regional	115	113	109	114	125	
Vocational schools	15	13	12	12	10	
Private schools	17	10	8	10	10	*

Total School Age students, PK-12

1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
331	307	307	295	300*

*Private school data unavailable at press time. Previous year private school count repeated.

WESTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Elementary Appropriation	891324
Encumbered from FY01	2060
	893384
Total Expenses	-867307
Encumbered to FY03	10632
Balance closed to Revenue	15445

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPENDITURES

Salary	654182
Services	104900
Supplies	42448
Intergovernmental	65777
	867307

VOCATIONAL

Vocational Appropriation	166209
Expended transportation	-23400
Expended tuition	-130829
Total Expenditures	-154229
Transfer to Counsel Fees	-2000
Balance closed to Revenue	9980

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A major change occurred at the Westhampton Elementary School when Principal Donald MacLeod retired. Don was first hired as a teaching principal at Davenport School in 1968, and the following year took on both the Goshen and Westhampton schools. He was the clerk for the Westhampton building project and in 1990 took on the job of full time principal of that school. Don was the longest-serving administrator in the five districts when he retired.

Deane Bates was appointed to succeed as the new principal. Mr. Bates began his career in 1990 as a teacher in the Chesterfield-Goshen Regional School District, and since 1997 had been a principal in Charlemont. A graduate of Hampshire Regional High School, Mr. Bates holds Associate, Bachelor and Masters degrees, and is currently enrolled in doctoral studies. The continuing school-wide theme at Westhampton Elementary is "Nature in Our Community," and classes are finishing work on nearby hillside nature trails, labeling trees and flowers, cleaning and preparing outdoor areas for classes to meet. In other special projects, students worked on units of study related to various aspect of their town's history. In preparation of the Westhampton's 225th anniversary celebration, students will be taking a historic tour of the town.Pat Miller's class will be raising salmon fry to release into local rivers. Nurse Lynn Sherry offered tobacco prevention classes in the fall and offered courses in becoming a certified baby sitter, and many staff members took a heart saver CPR course offered by Bob Miller and Lee Douchkoff.

Four of five towns in the Hampshire school district have been shifted to a different senatorial district, and no longer have Stan Rosenberg. Newly assigned Senator Andrea Nuciforo came to visit schools in September, and met with students in Mrs. King's class in September to help explain the workings of state government.

The **William E. Norris School** in Southampton continues to be

highly regarded for the quality and loyalty of its teaching staff and the fine job they do in educating a fairly large elementary school population. Although there were few staffing changes at the school, fifth grade teacher Nancy Sheehan retired after devoting 27 years to children of Southampton.

Finances have been a dominant concern for the Norris School and for the town as a whole for some time now. For various reasons the town as not met so-called "minimum expenditure requirements" set by the state. All town department budgets, including the school, have been restrained. A popular technology lab program at the school has been closed, and the computer teacher was reassigned to a vacant position on the faculty. Without a qualified librarian, resources of the school's marvelous media center are not fully accessible to students.

Teachers have been implementing the staff training component of a Literacy Grant, and although grant funds may be in jeopardy, they are committed to somehow follow through on the approaches in the rest of the initiative, with or without funds. Each year more children, some as young as kindergartners, are learning how to organize their thoughts, plan activities and tasks that will enrich and expand their own understandings.

We are particularly fortunate that the Southampton PTO has been an enthusiastic support group for the school. The PTO raises funds for enrichment activities, field trips and materials, their members provide supervision for age-appropriate after-school and evening events for children, and as an organization they sponsor programs and workshops for parents on important topics, such as disability awareness.

The School Building Needs Committee has been researching and studying enrollment patterns, the condition of the Norris School, which was renovated and expanded in 1995, and how the current school program uses space available to it. Members David Archambault, Kristen Priess and Jody Boucher plan to publish their findings during 2003.

Students and teachers at the New Hingham Elementary School in the **Chesterfield-Goshen Regional District** have benefited from the Bay State Readers program. Besides their heavy commitment to literacy, teachers have taken workshops in mathematics and special education, and writing workshops with John Collins representative Joan Pokrant. Students have new materials purchased with grant funds, and have been given pre- and post-tests in reading. Sarah Prince, a Chesterfield resident and retired librarian, gave book talks, and Nan Clark read her book to several of the classes and volunteered her time in the library to read to the students. Reading is shared across the grades weekly as older students read favorite books with younger ones.

Students in K-5 are using three units of Math Investigations besides their regular math program, designed to help students become more proficient in solving math problems using logic and reasoning skills. Second graders hatched salmon eggs in the spring, and released salmon fry into the Westfield River in May. Fifth graders displayed their science and social studies projects and reports to the school community at large, and each student had the opportunity to talk about his/her project as other students filed by.

The arts underlie all learning activities at New Hingham. Musician and artist in residence Nick Kachulis worked with art and music faculty to integrate music with dance and stories to support studies of Japan, China, Ireland, Greece and Peru. As for the "social curriculum," Sue Wallace trained fifth graders in techniques of Peer Mediation, grade 5-6 students assist in mediating problems on the playground, and all students in Pre-K-6 have been trained in Conflict Resolution. At a Mediation Fair in March, teams created activities designed to encourage alternative ways to resolve conflict and promote positive actions.

More than 80 grandparents and/or significant adults attended Back-to-School Night and Grandparents Week. Lennie Pittsinger and Janet Russell prepared roasted chicken and ziti to add to the potluck buffet for the Holiday Council on Aging Luncheon. Joan and Ron Loven

cut birch trees for students to make centerpiece gifts for the seniors. Sue LaBrie and Evelyn Robinson conducted SAFE workshops throughout the year, culminating in a Field Day, and Chief Hewes conducted DARE lessons with grades 5-6.

Many New Hingham students participate in athletics, thanks to parent and community members who donate their time and talent. Basketball, baseball and soccer parents offered programs for New Hingham students in grades 1-6. The PTO paid for a bus to bring students bowling in Northampton, and Cathy Whitcomb organized a cross-country ski day for grades 5 & 6.

Fewer students from Chesterfield and Goshen are enrolling elsewhere on school choice. New Hingham is attracting the attention of parents from other towns seeking a school with a positive climate, supportive and nurturing faculty, and a strong community of learners.

Many people work behind the scenes in **Williamsburg** to support the school. **School Committee** members Paul Dunphy, Michele Morris, Karen England, Michael Beattie and Chair Susan Snow are responsible for school budget and policy. The **School Council**, an elected advisory board, is responsible for school department program planning. Its members are teacher representatives, parents Charlene Nardi and Kim Hyslip, School Committee member Michele Morris, and Principal Fred Venne, who serves as co-chair. There are current vacancies on the Council for a community member at large and a parent of a child in the school.

The PTO has been re-energized by numerous parents. Donna Gingras is leading efforts that have helped support students through providing educational support for teachers and coordinating after-school events for families, and the "After School Club, " a child care program directed by Cark Warner and sponsored by the school department, continues a strong second year with ten students enrolled.

The Williamsburg School Building Committee has been deeply involved in bringing forth a project to improve school facilities. Its

members are teachers Alice Walker and Sherrie Marti, School Committee member Michele Morris, community members Alan Everett, Jeffrey Gelbard, Donna McGill, John Pohanka, Richard Childs and George Childs, and town Finance Committee liaison Karen Karowski. Principal Fred Venne and Superintendent Bill Erickson serve in an advisory capacity. In 2001 the Building Committee requested funds to conduct initial studies of the structure and property of the elementary schools, and $25,000 was allocated at the May town meeting. Volunteer and local geotechnical engineer Jim Hyslip supervised and completed a study of site conditions at both schools. In January, a structural assessment of the buildings was done by engineers Kelsey & Edwards.

The Committee was advised by the School Building Assistance Bureau (SBAB) that a comprehensive feasibility study, including educational specifications, would be needed for a complete application. Residents supported a joint recommendation of town boards to fund the study, and the West Springfield architectural firm of Alderman & MacNeish of was selected to conduct it. After review, SBAB officials saw a need to improve the facilities, and indicated the town would likely qualify for state reimbursement of 66 to 68 % if the facilities plan were supported and submitted by June 2003.

Renovation and expansion of middle and high school classrooms has preoccupied the daily lives of everyone at Hampshire Regional High School this year. Teachers and students have been very flexible and cooperative in pulling up belongings and changing classrooms on short notice to allow contractors access to older rooms. The first sign of growth was a seven-room two-story science wing on the north end of the school, which became available to students in November. The shape of the new structure was apparent, and the project is generally running on time and on budget.

Many long-time Hampshire employees who retired during 2002 will be missed, including counselors Dennis Gurn and Gloria Broecker. The school community was saddened with the death of English

teacher Andrea Warren, who died from cancer.

The Hampshire Regional School Committee has held firm on its position taken in November 2001 that a single test or assessment instrument should not be the sole deciding factor for graduation, and its intent to award diplomas regardless of whether students pass the tenth grade MCAS tests. More than four other districts in the state have taken similar positions in the meantime.

The **Superintendent's office** serves students and staff of five separate school districts from temporary quarters in Hathaway's garage on Perry Hill Road in Westhampton. The office will return to renovated space in the Hampshire Regional High School once construction is completed.

With the unfortunate death of secretary Sheila Lovett, it was an emotional year for everyone on the staff. Pupil Services Secretary Alene Noonan and Business Manager James Freebourn retired, as did bookkeeper Sharon Lumbis. Cynthia Landers, formerly Business Manager in the Ware public schools, has been appointed as the Business Administrator for the five districts.

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Erickson,
Superintendent

REPORT OF THE HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Work has continued on the $26,000,000 expansion and renovation of the Hampshire Regional school building. The school building has remained open during renovation. Construction has proceeded ahead of schedule with plans for completion in the fall of 2003. In December, 2002, the new science wing or the north side of the building was completed and occupied. The new south wing was

completed and occupied with the exception of the auditorium. Hampshire's renovated gymnasium welcomed the '02-'03 basketball season. Concerns over the building's internal environment have prompted inspections and recommendations from local and state health officials and coordination with general contractor, D.A. Sullivan & Sons, to isolate the renovation process from the areas of the building used by students and staff. Though 72 percent of project costs are to be reimbursed by the state, the start date of this reimbursement remains uncertain. The School Committee voted for the District to issue $9,000,000 in bonds to begin repayment on the construction debt at a most favorable interest rate.

Setting the Regional budget for fiscal '03 (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003) required much work between the School Committee and Select Boards, Finance Committees and the citizens of Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg, the five towns that The school building has remained open during renovation comprise our Regional School District. A tentative budget set in February 2002 to add staff and begin a long planned tech prep program was pared down beginning with the budget adopted by the School Committee in March 2002 and later at annual town meetings in May 2002. The School Committee, seeking stronger support from the towns, presented a second budget for their consideration. Town votes in July 2002 again did not reach the level of financial support sought by the School Committee. The process was also strongly impacted by a lower than expected level of Chapter 70 support and less regional transportation money from the state. Following the setting of the state budget in August 2002, the School Committee once again went back to the towns to bridge the gap between projected budget amounts used in the School Committee's budget proposals and lowered state aid. With votes of support from the towns, a final '03 budget of $7,841,061 for the Regional School District was approved in December 2002.

Carl Ostrowski is in his third year as principal of Hampshire Regional. He has strongly supported increasing credits for graduation and adding programs to provide additional educational

opportunities for Hampshire students. Hampshire continues to provide high quality education at extremely low cost per student in comparison with other districts across the region and state. Even with the strong support of the towns, the District is still unable to add programs that the School Committee and school administrators consider necessary to better prepare Hampshire students for the new challenges of the 21st century. As reform has made education more competitive, the School Committee is concerned that the inability to add programs such as tech prep will make our school less competitive.

Hampshire's class of 2003 will be the first to complete its education with the state's MCAS requirement in place. The School Committee has continued its commitment to maintaining our traditional goals of a balanced, broad and humane education for every student and to strive to prepare our students for whatever tests the state mandates. The School Committee still intends to award a diploma to each student who has completed with credit our high school course of study. Recently enacted federal legislation will require further attention to meeting strict educational goals as we endeavor to "leave no child behind."

The year 2002 was a time of challenges for Hampshire Regional and your School Committee. The Committee continues to work to provide our children with the best education we can in difficult economic times. We appreciate the excellent work of the Regional School staff and administration. Our teachers and counselors, aides, custodians, cafeteria staff, other support personnel and our administrators, both at the Regional School and in the Superintendent's Office which moved to a building near the Westhampton Elementary School to assist the demands of renovation, are our valued partners and colleagues in this endeavor. We look to continue our work with them and with the students, parents and residents of the five towns to meet the challenges of 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Brousseau, Chair

2001 SCHOOL REPORT FOR HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL DISTRICT

Resident student enrollment, by town, as of October 1, 2002:

Grade	Chesterfield	Goshen	Southampton	Westhampton	Williamsburg	Totals
7	13	6	83	22	22	146
8	5	5	87	22	33	152
9	10	5	73	24	25	137
10	11	5	58	18	25	117
11	7	5	50	16	23	101
12	13	7	60	23	18	121
Choice out	9	5	14	4	29	61
Charter out	1	0	4	7	7	19
Totals	69	38	429	136	182	854

Assessment percentages, by town:

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Chesterfield	11.260	11.436	11.580	11.439	10.676	9.991
Goshen	6.802	7.045	7.259	7.372	7.141	6.480
Southampton	50.039	50.161	50.182	49.679	49.941	49.929
Westhampton	13.940	13.917	14.033	14.031	14.329	14.844
Williamsburg	17.959	17.440	16.946	17.479	17.912	18.756

Personnel employed by the Hampshire Regional District during 2002:

Dennis Arruda
Denise Cashin
Lisa LaCroix
Robert Miller
Margaret Parsons
Leo Burque
Caryl Finn
Cynthia Landers
Patrick Mullen
Stuart Singer
Christine Bernier
Virginia Curro
Diane LaFosse
Maureen Monaghan
Maggie Ryan
Judy Butler
James Kelley
Tammy Lyons
Ronald O'Brien

Personnel who left the employ of the Hampshire Regional District in 2002:

Christine Bernier	Lillian Bisbee
James Freebourn	Doris Grala
William Hubbard	Louise Inman
Sharon Lumbis	Alene Noonan
Andrea Warren	Patricia Trudell
Wendy Blow	Gloria Broecker
Dennis Gurn	Mary Holt
Dawn Liimatainen	Melissa Miller
Sheila Lovett	Debra Saloio

Based on combined preschool, special education, vocational school and regular day student enrollment as of October 1, five cooperating school districts share in the cost of employing the Superintendent and central office staff.

Percent share, by District	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Chesterfield-Goshen Regional, PK-6	10.5	10.8	10.5	11.3	11.0
Southampton, PK-6	29.1	29.5	29.9	30.8	29.0
Westhampton, PK-6	9.1	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.3
Williamsburg, PK-6	12.0	12.5	12.3	11.9	13.3
Hampshire Regional, 7 -12	39.2	38.5	38.4	37.4	38.5

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
FISCAL 2002

REVENUES

Assessments

Chesterfield	$	542,516
Goshen	$	387,471
Southampton	$	2,347,436
Westhampton	$	658,177
Williamsburg	$	802,356
Total Assessments	$	4,737,956

Intergovernmental		
Chapter 70	$	2,282,010
Transportation	$	484,751
School Choice	$	593,139
Charter School	$	28,805
Total Intergovernmental	$	3,388,705
Interest and Other		
Interest	$	20,752
Other	$	21,778
Total Interest & Other	$	42,530
TOTAL REVENUES	$	8,169,191
EXPENDITURES		
Administration	$	266,878
Instructional	$	3,519,257
SPED instructional	$	850,417
Support services	$	83,581
Pupil Transportation	$	507,655
SPED pupil transportation	$	269,806
Student body activities	$	136,878
Operation and Maintenance	$	430,200
Retirement	$	182,971
Employee insurance	$	665,165
Health insurance retirees	$	38,315
Other insurance	$	27,202
Debt service	$	190,071
Programs with other districts	$	633,075
School choice/charter school tuition	$	377.841
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$	8,179,311
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures/Transfers	$	(10,121)
FUND BALANCE - BEGINNING OF YEAR	$	81,593
FUND BALANCE - END OF YEAR	$	71,472

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia D. Landers
Business Administrator

SALARIES

All figures are annual unless otherwise noted.

ELECTED OFFCIALS	FY03	Proposed 04
Board of Selectman Chairman	1200	1200
Others	1000	1000
Board of Assessors Chairman	2200	2200
Others	2000	2000
Board of Health Each +$18/hr .perc/TitleV	300	300
Town Clerk	5800	5945
Tax Collector	6494 plus fees	6656 +fees
Treasurer	8700	8918
Auditor	150	150
Moderator	150	150
School Committee Chairman	180	180
Others	150	150
APPOINTED OFFICIALS		
Accounting Officer	8700	8918
Veterans Agent	700	700
Administrative Assistant	7957	8156
Assessor's Secretary	1225	1250
Clerk, Bd. Registrars	50	50
Building Inspector	5500	5500
Wiring , Plumbing Inspectors	15/inspection	15/inspection
Sanitation Inspector	25/inspection	25/inspection
Election Workers	6.75/hour	6.75/hour
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT		
Grade1A	17.03/hour	17.58/hour
Grade 1	16.03/hour	16.58/hour
Grade 2	16.03/hour	16.58/hour
Superintendent	45600	46000
LANDFILL Caretaker	9.25/hour	9.25/hour
LIBRARY Director	30931	32760
Staff Librarian	11.00/hour	11.00/hour
Custodian	8.75/hour	8.75/hour
TOWN HALL Custodian	9.25/hour	9.25/hour
POLICE CHIEF	14/hour	14/hour
Officers – Regular	11.00/hour	11.00/hour
Court	15/hour	15/hour
Secretary	10/hour	10/hour
FIRE CHIEF	3000	3000
CEMETERY CARETAKER	4326	4456

PROPOSED BUDGET FISCAL 2004

ACCOUNT	VOTED F2003	PROPOSED F2004
GENERAL GOVERNMENT		
Counsel Fees	10000	10000
Moderator	150	150
Selectmen Salary	3200	3200
Selectmen Expense	4100	3800
Selectmen Secretary	7957	8156
Auditor Salary	150	150
Accounting Officer Salary	8700	8918
Accounting Office Expense	1300	1150
Assessor Salary	6200	6200
Assessor Expense	6100	5870
Assessor Secretary	1225	1250
Treasurer Salary	8700	8918
Treasurer Expense	3200	2700
Tax Collector Salary	6494	6656
Tax Collector Expense	3000	2600
Town Clerk Salary	5800	5945
Town Clerk Expense	2735	2150
Clerk, Board of Registrars	50	50
Conservation Commission	265	265
Planning Board Expense	200	200
HIGHWAYS		
Highway Administration	3500	3500
Highway Salaries	138500	142000
Holiday Pay	4713	4872
Vacation Pay	5250	5426
Bridges & Railings	500	0
Highway Materials	48000	41500
Road Machinery	22500	22000
Road Machinery Fuel	12000	12000
Snow Removal	42000	42000
Road Machinery Buildings	7000	7000
SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES		
Hampshire Regional HS (Article)	729723	932062
HRHS Capital	78256	162062
Vocational (Article)	166209	166209
Elementary School (Article)	926324	954071
School Committee Salary	480	480
Library	50720	50300
Library Grant	20000	0

VETERANS		
Veterans Expense	100	100
Veterans Agent Salary	700	700
Memorial Day	100	100
225th Celebratio	2000	
Cultural Council	500	500
CEMETERIES		
Cemetery Salary	4326	4456
PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROP		
Police Department	38000	38000
Constable	1	1
Fire Chief	3000	3000
Fire Department	11950	10750
Emergency Medical Services	300	300
Inspector Salary	13000	10500
Tree Warden Expense	1500	1350
Civil Defense	1	1
Dog Officer	500	400
Animal Inspector	500	500
HEALTH & SANITATION		
Hilltown Resource Mgt. Coop. (Article)	5141	4646
Board of Health Salary	3400	3400
Board of Health Expense	58874	55184
Transfer Station Debt	20548	0
DEBT & INTEREST		
Interest Short Term Debt	1	1
Long Term Debt	385000	410000
Interest Long Term Debt	57000	42200
UNCLASSIFIED		
Insurance & Bonds	36000	39000
Town Offices	8500	8150
Council on Aging	1000	1000
Recreation	0	0
Historical	200	200
County Retirement	54730	61768
Council of Governments	9769	8111
Unemployment (Article 8)	9800	10800
Group Insurance	111000	155000
Medicare	10000	12000
Land Damage	1	1
Reserve Fund	5000	5000
TOTAL	3187643	3510622

ARTICLES ON THE WARRANT
MAY 10, 2003

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act on all reports presented at said meeting.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to leave the care of the highways in charge of the Selectmen.

ARTICLE 3: To vote in compliance with Section 108, Chapter 41 G.L. which requires that salaries of elected officials be fixed by vote of the Town.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's assessment for Fiscal 2004, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money to meet Westhampton's share of Hampshire Regional School District's capital assessment for Fiscal 2004, or any lesser sum as may be certified by the District, provided that any such certification shall be made prior to the establishment of the tax rate, and to meet this appropriation, a sum of money be raised by taxation, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for the Elementary School, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Vocational school expenses, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, such sum of money as may be necessary to defray Town charges in the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide a sum of money to hold in anticipation of unemployment benefits for Town employees in accordance with Chapter 151A of the General Laws of Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, a sum of money for Westhampton Town's share of expenses of continued participation in the Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative, or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from available funds, due to the town as Chapter 90 Highway funds, from the Transportation Bond Issue, voted in the Acts of 2003,or take any other action in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum of money from Free Cash to reduce the tax rate, or take any other action in relation thereto. $105,000

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town as follows:

Section 1 Organization and Procedure

1-1-1 The annual election of town officers shall be held on the first Saturday in June of each year and the annual meeting for the transaction of other business shall be held on the **first Monday** in May.

NOTE: This is a preliminary list of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting; it is subject to change and/or additions. The final warrant will be posted at least seven days before the Annual Meeting, May 10th.

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

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